

CLAIMS

1. A medication filling apparatus comprising a plurality of tablet cases for respectively accommodating medications of respective types, a plurality of hoppers provided side by side below the respective tablet cases in a (corresponding manner) to receive the medications dispensed therefrom, and charging means for guiding the medications dispensed from a dispensing port formed at the bottommost portion of each hopper to a predetermined container and for charging them, further comprising retaining members on which the hoppers are hung, wherein the hoppers are detachably installed to the retaining members.

2. A medication filling apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising hopper detecting means for detecting that the hoppers have been installed to the retaining members.

3. A medication filling apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, further comprising a height adjusting mechanism for adjusting the height of the dispensing port of each hopper.

4. A medication filling apparatus comprising a plurality of tablet cases for respectively accommodating medications of respective types, a plurality of hoppers provided side by side below the respective tablet cases in a (corresponding manner) to receive the medications dispensed therefrom, and charging means for guiding the medications dispensed from a

7 dispensing port formed at the bottommost portion of each
hopper to a predetermined container and for (charging them),

9 wherein each of the hoppers comprises a vertical wall
installed in a standing manner to partition the interior
11 thereof.

1 5. A medication filling apparatus comprising a plurality
of tablet cases for accommodating medications of respective
2 types, a plurality of hoppers provided side by side below the
respective tablet cases in (a corresponding manner) to receive
3 the medications dispensed therefrom, and charging means for
guiding the medications dispensed from a dispensing port
7 formed at the bottommost portion of each hopper to a
predetermined container and (for charging them),

9 wherein each of the hoppers is provided with an anti-
spilling wall that extends outward from the dispensing port
11 and is installed over the full periphery of the dispensing
port.

6. A medication filling apparatus comprising a plurality
of tablet cases for accommodating medications of respective
types, a plurality of hoppers provided side by side below the
respective tablet cases in a corresponding manner to receive
the medications dispensed therefrom, dispensing ports
respectively formed at the bottommost portions of the hoppers,
a plurality of holding cells that are disposed below the
hoppers and are rotationally moved on the circumferences

where the dispensing ports of the hoppers exist, shutters for opening and closing the lower end outlets of the holding cells, and charging means for guiding the medications dispensed from the holding cell to a predetermined container and for charging them, wherein, when a medication is dispensed from a tablet case, a holding cell is rotationally moved to adjust its position thereby to align the upper end inlet of the holding cell to the outlet of the hopper that receives the dispensed medication so as to accommodate the medication falling from the tablet case in a predetermined holding cell, and when filling a container, the holding cell is rotationally moved to align its outlet to the charging means before a shutter is opened,

wherein the holding cell is constructed by a fixed cell and a movable cell installed such that it can move in a direction for opening the outlet in relation to the fixed cell, and the movable cell is moved in a direction for opening the outlet by movable cell driving means when opening the shutter.

7. A medication filling apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising movable cell operation detecting means for detecting the operation of the movable cell.

8. A medication filling apparatus according to Claim 6 or 7, wherein the movable cell driving means is disposed such that it disengageably engages the movable cell of the holding

cell that matches the charging means, without interfering with the rotational movement of the holding cell.

9. A medication filling apparatus comprising a plurality of tablet cases for accommodating medications of respective types, a plurality of hoppers provided side by side below the respective tablet cases in a corresponding manner to receive the medications dispensed therefrom, dispensing ports respectively formed at the bottommost portions of the hoppers, a plurality of holding cells that are disposed below the hoppers and are rotationally moved on the circumferences where the dispensing ports of the hoppers exist, shutters for opening and closing the lower end outlets of the holding cells, and charging means for guiding the medications dispensed from the holding cells to a predetermined container and for charging them, wherein, when a medication is dispensed from a tablet case, a holding cell is rotationally moved to adjust its position thereby to align the upper end inlet of the holding cell to the outlet of the hopper that receives the dispensed medication so as to accommodate the medication falling from the tablet case in a predetermined holding cell, and when filling a container, the holding cell is rotationally moved to align its outlet to the charging means before a shutter is opened,

wherein a holding unit is constructed by the holding cell and the shutter, and a plurality of the holding units are installed on a rotating plate that rotates below the

hoppers.

10. A medication filling apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein (the shutter driving means) for opening and closing (the shutters) is disposed such that (it) does not interfere with (the rotating motion of (the holding units) by (the rotation of (the rotating plate)) and that (it) detachably engages with (the shutter of the holding unit) whose holding cell matches the charging means.

11. A medication filling apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, further comprising shutter opening/closing detecting means for detecting the opening and closing of (the shutters).